Spring Missions Festival sermon: The Whole Church Bringing the Gospel to the Whole World; Delivered by: Dr. Michael Oh, Lausanne Movement global executive director; Date: April 22, 2018

Bible text explored: John 3:16-17

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. We may need to see *John 3:16*, the most widely known summary of the gospel, with fresh eyes. Dr. Oh challenged us to the "scary exercise" of answering the following questions for ourselves:

What was your life like before you encountered the gospel?

What would your life be like if you had never encountered the gospel?

What person most helped you receive the gospel?

Do you have any idea who it was that helped the person who helped you?

What would your situation be if someone in the communication chain of people sent by God had refused to respond to his call?

- 2. In the light of the verse following it, why would it be tragic if I thought of *John 3:16* only in terms of how it applies to me?
- 3. What is the scope of the <u>whole world</u> which God loved so much? (*Among other statistics, Dr. Oh, spoke of a global population of 26 billion—many lost, suffering, and dying, and of 3 billion with little or no access to the gospel.)*
- 4. How is the gospel good news that speaks into a bad reality? What is the urgent nature of the reality? (See *John 3:36*.)
- 5. Why will it require involvement of the <u>whole church</u> if the whole world is to be reached?
 - How could you function as a "chaplain" in the sphere in which you are employed or serve?
- 6. Dr. Oh asked what the impact would be if every Christian shared the gospel with every non-Christian they know. What is the answer?
 - Would such a leap forward, although spectacular, be enough to extend the gospel message to the 3 billion for whom access has been largely blocked?
- 7. How would you answer the questions Paul asked in *Romans* 10:14-15a?